(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when India is going to receive the first batch of Hawks from UK?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A total number of twenty three (23) Indian Air Force(IAF) Pilots from the first four batches have successfully completed training on Hawk aircraft.

(c) and (d) The plan is to send a total number of seventy five (75) IAF pilots in twelve batches for training to the United Kingdom(UK). Presently, seventeen (17) IAF pilots are undergoing training in UK and the next batch of six IAF pilots is slated to depart for UK on 27th March 2006. The training is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2008.

(e) The delivery of the Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer is expected to commence from September 2007.

Replacement of obsolete warships

†1684. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of warships have become obsolete and there is a need to replace them;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Defence has formulated any scheme for replacing the said warships and for modernization of Navy fleet;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Warships are inducted in the Navy as replacement for decommissioned platforms and for augmenting the strength of the Force. This is a continuous process based on the threat perception and international security environment according to which modernization plans of the Navy are formulated.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

It will not be in the interest of National Security to divulge the details of the modernization of Naval Fleet.

Deployment of defence forces personnel under UN peace keeping missions

1685. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Indian defence forces personnel are deployed in foreign countries under UN peace keeping missions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and their terms of deputation;

(c) whether these personnel can be recalled on exigencies of work in the country; and

(d) if so, the terms and condition of such withdrawal?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The requirement of Armed Forces personnel deployed in various United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions is dynamic in nature and keeps varying on a continuous basis. A total of 8612 personnel have been deployed in various UN missions, at present. The terms and conditions of the personnel deployed in these Missions are governed by the orders/instructions issued by the UN/Government in this regard.

(c) and (d) The personnel deployed in the UN Missions can be recalled in case of exigencies of work as provided in the terms and conditions regulating the deputation.

Army recruitment camp in Srinagar

1686. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been overwhelming response to a recent army recruitment camp in Srinagar by local youth aspiring to join the 'home and hearth' force, now under formation in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether more then 12,000 youths, including Kashmiri Pandits, lined up at the recruitment camp, to fill 80 posts in Territorial Army; and